

and Surgery, gave a clear and concise talk on "Tuberculosis," and the best methods of prevention and cure.

Discussion was led by Mrs. L. J. Lupinski, of Grand Rapids, and Miss Violet Benner, of Saginaw.

Upon vote of the association, the time for the fulfillment of the pledge which was made at the last annual meeting of \$3 per member towards a fund for the endowment of a chair in Hospital Economics at Columbia University, has been extended one year or until the next annual meeting. This will enable Alumnae associations and others who have not contributed an opportunity to assist in raising the desired sum.

A communication is to be sent to the nearby states asking for their hearty co-operation with Michigan in the furtherance of this movement.

Mrs. L. E. Gretter, of Detroit, chairman of the arrangement committee of the Nurses Associated Alumnae, announced that the meeting would be held in Detroit June 5, 6 and 7. A very earnest appeal was made to secure not only a large attendance from Michigan, but from the middle and western states also, thereby bringing about, if possible, an overflow meeting.

Blue, white and yellow were adopted as the colors of the State Association and all members were requested to wear this badge at the meeting in Detroit.

It is hoped that other states will wear their national colors on this occasion.

The association will soon become affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Great credit is due the graduate nurses and citizens of Ann Arbor for the cordial hospitality extended to the members of the association and their honored guests.

The social functions included a "Faculty Recital," under the leadership of Prof. Stanley, given in Frieze Memorial Hall, complimentary to the nurses and their friends. Also a luncheon and reception in Barbour Gymnasium by the graduate nurses of Ann Arbor for the members of the association and their honored guests, Miss S. F. Palmer, Rochester, N. Y., and Mrs. Caroline Bartlett Crane, of Kalamazoo.

Miss Mary C. Haarer, Miss Fantine Pemberton, and Miss Bertha Knapp, graduate nurses of the University Hospital, gave a luncheon at Mack's tea room for the president and other officers. The guests of honor on this occasion were Miss S. F. Palmer, Rochester, N. Y., and Mrs. Emma Fox, of Detroit.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Miss Sarah E. Sly, Birmingham; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. L. E. Gretter, Detroit; 2nd Vice-President, Miss E. L. Parker, Lansing; Recording Secretary, Miss A. G. Deans, Detroit; Corresponding Secretary, Miss K. M. Gifford, Grand Rapids; Treasurer, Miss A. M. Coleman, Saginaw. Committees: Ways and Means, Miss J. M. Lennox, Lansing; Nominating, Miss L. J. Lupinski, Grand Rapids; Credentials, Miss I. M. Barrett, Grand Rapids; Printing, Miss L. B. Durkee, Detroit; Arrangements, Mrs. M. S. Foy, Battle Creek.

The meeting adjourned to meet in Battle Creek next spring.

Respectfully submitted.

K. M. GIFFORD, Corresponding Secretary.

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## THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF VISITING NURSES

THE visiting nurses of the state of Connecticut held their second meeting in New Britain, March 28. Those present at the meeting were Miss Wilkinson and Miss

Snow of Hartford, Miss Hills and Miss Flang of New Haven, Miss Beard and Miss Whitman of Waterbury, Miss Hill of New Britain, and Miss Payne of Derby and Ansonia.

The first business to come before the meeting was the selection of a name, which is to be "The Connecticut Association of Visiting Nurses." Miss Martha J. Wilkinson is the president of the association and Miss Mary Grace Hills of New Haven, secretary and treasurer. Two vice-presidents were elected, Miss Beard of Waterbury, first, and Miss Ball of Middletown, second. A committee was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws. It was voted to hold the next regular meeting in Hartford. The meeting adjourned to meet at the call of the president.

The object of this association is to promote social intercourse among the visiting nurses, to benefit the members through an exchange of ideas and methods and to keep up the standard of the visiting nurses in the state of Connecticut.

After the business meeting, a public meeting was held at the residence of Mr. Charles Wetmore, who is president of the local association in New Britain. The Rev. Dr. Davis of New Britain gave an address of welcome.

Mrs. O. Vincent Coffin read a report of the work in Middletown. The Middletown association was the first to be formed in the state and began its work in the spring of 1900. Miss Rowe of Albany was the first nurse secured and held the position until recently. After about a year the calls were too numerous to be answered by one nurse and Miss Mary Grace Hills, of Rhode Island, now at the head of the work in New Haven, was added to the force. The money to start the work was raised by soliciting from house to house and the first year \$1000 was collected. The second year, \$1700. The members pay \$1 a year and the honorary members \$5. A fee is charged each patient varying from five to fifty cents according to circumstances, the amount to be decided by the nurse. Miss Hills resigned in 1903, and her place was ably filled by Miss Hill. A benefit of \$1000 has been received which is called "The Gaston T. Hubbard Benefit Fund." The number of calls made the first year was 3111. The second year twice that number and since then an average of 6000 or 7000 calls each year.

Miss Edith Beach followed with a short review of the work in Hartford. This association was first started under the auspices of the "Guild of St. Barnabas," but soon became a separate organization and last December was incorporated. The work was begun April 18, 1901, with Miss Martha J. Wilkinson in charge of it and she has held the position ever since. In those five years there have been but three days in which no calls have been made and this was on account of severe storms. The first year there were 1973 calls made in caring for 111 patients. The city is large and not divided into districts so a great deal of time is consumed in going from place to place. A supply closet, from which articles are loaned or given, was soon found to be a necessity. The work is supported by contributions. Miss Wilkinson engages the services of other nurses as required.

Mrs. Baldwin gave a few facts about Derby, Shelton and Ansonia. The first step was taken three years ago by the "Women's Club." From \$175 to \$200 was netted by a performance by John Drew at the theatre. This was immediately set aside for the benefit of the sick poor. Miss Cox, who had been connected with the New York settlement work, was engaged to take charge of a summer home. This was tried for three months as an experiment by the club and then a separate organization was formed. This consisted of men as well as women. Miss Hall, who had done settlement work in New York was engaged and Miss Payne of New York is

now supplying in her place very acceptably. Special nurses are sent to contagious cases and paid from the treasury. There is also an emergency roll. The first year a canvass was made from house to house and fifteen hundred dollars was raised; this last year a little less than that. The entire amount was given by five of the towns-people.

The Rev. Mr. Lewis of Waterbury, gave a most interesting talk about the work in that city. He said in part; "I have no speech prepared and no report to read. We have not had much of anything in Waterbury but nursing; no machinery of any sort. We are absolutely without organization. I mean just what I say. Three years ago in looking over the work I saw a great need. We knew nothing of any work anywhere except at the Henry Street settlement in New York under the management of Miss Wald, who is the head and foot and back-bone of all settlement work. I went to some friends of mine and said, "I want to try an experiment." I asked a dozen men to give \$100 each and they did. I then had \$1200 in the bank, and went to New York to find the best nurses I could find in the country. First of all I wanted consecrated women, women of culture and refinement, as they must go into houses of squalor and shame. Only this class of women can go into these houses. I went to New York and looked around the hospitals and finally secured the two best nurses to be found in the country.

The visiting nurse is under-paid. To offer a visiting nurse less than eight or nine hundred dollars a year is a shame. Pay a top-notch salary and expect top-notch work. And above all, do not patronize them. Do not say the nurses who serve you. We serve the nurses. If not, they are not the right sort. They are our superiors; of a higher order.

After a year it was no longer an experiment. In Waterbury, at least, the well-being of our city (not the being of our city, that is in the hands of the politicians but the well-being) is to a large extent in the hands of the nurses. We have now been at work for three years. We are not a model; conditions differ and the work cannot be done in the same way in different places. Our annual expense is about \$4000. We have a house in the center of the city under the supervision of a head nurse. In this is a dispensary where patients who are able come to be treated. In that dispensary we have instruments, bandages, sterilized dressings and everything necessary to work with. Mr. Lewis is the whole thing; the association, its president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, committee and board of lady managers. We have a staff doctor who answers calls day or night. If the doctors do not like this work they are quacks and fakes. They do not want good work.

In six weeks we made 104 visits and 93 visits were received from patients able to walk. Advisory calls, 1; new calls, 7; sent to doctors 6. Each nurse gives to me a detailed report of each day's work, showing where she has spent every minute of the time from nine o'clock in the morning. The report is the *bete noire* of the nurses, but the men who give me their money want to know what becomes of it. Miss Wald makes a strong point of this. She insists on a detailed statement of what each nurse is doing all the time. I believe this work can be mismanaged but not killed. It may be hampered by too much machinery and too much direction, but it is bound to succeed. There are no rules in Waterbury. We have got to give the nurse some liberty of action. If you do not want her, put her out; but when you get the right one, keep her. Our nurses are given credit for having sense. They are given this house in the center of the city and they work. Give them work but do not kill them. Above all do not load them down with rules. Do not kill their

spirit. The more work they do the better they like it. We cannot show perhaps, as large a number of calls on our report as some cities, but the work is done and well done. If a nurse is called to a confinement case (and we take confinement cases) she may have to stay five or six hours in order to do the work to be done on these cases. This, of course, does not roll up a large list of visits.

In reference to the question of how to get the money. There is no trouble about that. People fall over themselves to give money provided the work is right. One corporation gave me \$100. One gentleman wrote me a letter and said: "I do not care what you do with the money as long as you give it to those nurses." Another said: "when you want money, let me know." One man sent one of the nurses around in his carriage on a rainy day. Everybody respects the nurse. The doctors respect her, whether they respect themselves or not. This work has come to stay.

I did not realize what this meeting was to be. It is most happy. It is christian. I asked the nurses to come up here to-day in uniform, with their bags, etc.; after the meeting they will be glad to show you the contents of these bags and explain anything you may want to know.

Miss Pruden, of New Haven, said that they began with one donation of \$1000. The churches all helped. It was the idea to raise \$25,000 as a working capital, but the sum has not yet reached \$12,000. Miss Mary Grace Hills was engaged to take charge of the work. At the end of the first year there was a balance of \$400. A rule has been made to limit the working hours of the nurse to eight hours a day, and to give her one half-day each week. If she prefers to take the time two days at once, there is no objection. She decides such minor matters for herself. The nurse is given some funds for charitable cases to use at her own discretion; it is very necessary to have money to use in this way.

New Haven has tried to represent, as far as possible, all charitable institutions on the board. There is a Jewish rabbi and a Catholic priest as well as representatives from all other churches.

Dr. Davis said just a few words about the New Britain institution. This board is composed entirely of men. It was organized the first of January, 1906, and is the baby association, being only three months old. Dr. Davis says: "I know this thing is going in New Britain. All I ask is that it shall be written on my tombstone that I was the man who started the organization. If anyone asks you, tell them it can be done. I ask no credit; the credit belongs to the men who have raised the funds."

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### REGULAR MEETINGS

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—At the annual meeting of the Long Island College Hospital Alumnae Association the following officers and directors were elected for the year:

President, Miss M. A. Hope; first vice-president, Miss Elizabeth Hall; second vice-president, Miss Violetta Toufet; treasurer, Miss Regina Kelley; recording secretary, Miss Mary E. Beyer; corresponding secretary, Jessie E. Wiley; directors, Miss Sarah Burgess, Miss Edith Brown, Miss Matilda Decker, Miss M. A. Hill and Miss V. A. Monck.

J. E. WILEY, Corresponding Secretary.

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NEW YORK.—The annual meeting of the Alumnae Association of the New York Hospital Nurses was held in the lecture-room, 6 West Sixteenth Street, on April 11,